

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00115 181328Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07
NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-06 CU-02 /061 W
-----181343Z 079170 /44

R 181221Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4039
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, GY
SUBJECT: 1977 BUDGET - DEBATE CONTINUES

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0048 (NOTAL), (B) GEORGETOWN 0011 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE 1977 BUDGET CONTINUED
THIS PAST WEEK TO HOLD CENTER STAGE IN GEORGETOWN. AS
REPORTED IN THE "GUYANA CHRONICLE" ON JANUARY 11,12,13 AND
14, THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE THE MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED.
END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON HEALTH CARE, MRS. JANET JAGAN (PPP)
BLAMED THE PNC FOR WHAT SHE DESCRIBED AS A SHORTAGE OF
DOCTORS, PHARMACEUTICALS AND ADEQUATE HOSPITAL FACILITIES,
PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS. SPEAKING FOR THE PNC, DR.
OLIVER HARPER, MINISTER OF HEALTH, ARGUED THAT HEALTH
NEEDS WERE BEING MET AND IMPROVED. DR. HARPER ANNOUNCED
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00115 181328Z

THAT MORE DOCTORS WOULD BE TRAINED REGIONALLY AND IN
COUNTRIES SUCH AS HUNGARY, CUBA, MEXICO AND INDIA WHICH
STRESSED "COMMUNITY SERVICE."

2. PPP PARLIAMENTARIAN CLINTON COLLYMORE PROPOSED THAT
THE NATIONAL SERVICE BUDGET BE HALVED FROM THE CURRENTLY
PROPOSED G\$14 MILLION. THE PRIME MINISTER REBUTTED THAT

THE NATIONAL SERVICE WAS AN IMPORTANT INSTITUTION IN THE "EDUCATION PROCESS TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A SOCIALIST GUYANA." HE ADDED THAT NATIONAL SERVICE WOULD REMAIN COMPLUSORY FOR UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA STUDENTS. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE NATIONAL SERVICE WOULD BECOME A PUBLIC CORPORATION.

3. ON EDUCATION, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT FOR STUDY ABROAD, STUDENTS WOULD BE SENT TO REPUTABLE INSTITUTIONS. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD BE PREFERRED FOR TRAINING IN MEDICINE AND ENGINEERING BECAUSE THESE COUNTRIES ARE "COMMUNITY ORIENTED."

4. MINISTER OF TRADE GEORGE KING ANNOUNCED THAT 1977 IMPORTS WOULD BE HELD TO G\$1 BILLION, G\$100 MILLION LESS THAN 1976. IN ADDITION, STATE CORPORATIONS WILL BE THE SOLE IMPORTERS OF "BASIC COMMODITIES." DISTRIBUTOR AGENTS WILL BE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED AND LICENSED. THUS, ONLY RETAILING WILL BE LEFT IN PRIVATE HANDS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. COMMENT: READING THE ABOVE RHETORIC ALMOST DAILY GIVES OBSERVERS THE IMPRESSION THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD THIS YEAR. SUMMED UP THOUGH, IT WAS MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING WITH THE PPP SAYING THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO SPEND MORE ON SELECTED AREAS AND THE GOG DEFENDING ITS POSITION. VERY LITTLE SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION ABOUT GOG PLANS TO OVERCOME ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WERE MENTIONED WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GEORGE 00115 181328Z

EXCEPTION OF MINISTER KING'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CUT IN IMPORTS OF G\$100 MILLION.
MCCOY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT BUDGET, DEBATES, POLITICAL PARTIES, FINANCIAL PROGRAMS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3574796
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1977 BUDGET - DEBATE CONTINUES
TAGS: EFIN, GY
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